

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for determining the cost of a content object having a plurality of content entities, comprising the steps of:

Determining a content count for the content object; and

Determining from the content count a price for the content object.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining a content count further comprises the steps of determining a content count for each content entity, and summing the entity content counts to obtain a content count for the content object.

15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of obtaining a content count for entities containing characters further comprises the step of determining a character count for the entity.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of obtaining a content count further comprises the step of determining a page count from the character count.

20 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of obtaining a character count further comprises at least one of:

The step of counting the number of content characters in the content entity; and

25 The step of determining the content entity type, and determining an average character count for content entities of that type.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of determining a content object price further comprises multiplying the page count with a predetermined price per page value.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the content entities comprises user-provided content, and wherein determining a price for the content object further comprises the steps of separately determining a price for user provided content and summing it with the price determined for the remaining content entities of the content object.

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8. The method of claim 7, wherein the price for user-provided material is determined in a first manner if the content count exceeds a predefined content count maximum, and is determined in a second manner if the content count does not exceed the predefined maximum.

10 9. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for determining the cost of a content object having a plurality of content entities, comprising the steps of:

Determining a content count for the content object; and

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Determining from the content count a price for the content object.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of determining a content count further comprises the steps of determining a content count for each content entity, and summing the entity content counts to obtain a content count for the content object.

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11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of obtaining a content count for entities containing characters further comprises the step of determining a character count for the entity.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of obtaining a content count further comprises the step of determining a page count from the character count.

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13. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of obtaining a character count further comprises at least one of:

The step of counting the number of content characters in the content entity; and

5 The step of Determining the content entity type, and determining an average character count for content entities of that type.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of determining a content object price further comprises the step of multiplying the page count with a predetermined price per page value.

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15. The method of claim 9, wherein at least one of the content entities comprises user-provided content, and wherein the step of determining a price for the content object further comprises the steps of separately determining a price for user provided content and summing it with the price determined for the remaining content entities of the content object.

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16. The method of claim 15, wherein the price for user-provided material is determined in a first manner if the content count exceeds a predefined content count maximum, and is determined in a second manner if the content count does not exceed the predefined maximum.

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~~17.~~ A system for determining the cost of a content object having a plurality of content entities, comprising:

Means for determining a content count for the content object; and

Means for determining a price for the content object from the content count.

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18. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for determining a content count further comprises means for determining a content count for each content entity, and means for summing the entity content counts to obtain a content count for the content object.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the means for obtaining a content count for entities containing characters further comprises means for determining a character count for the entity.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the means for obtaining a content count further comprises means for determining a page count from the character count.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein the means for obtaining a character count further comprises at least one of a) means for counting the number of content characters in the content entity; and b) means for determining the content entity type, and means for determining an average character count for content entities of that type.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the means for determining a content object price further comprises means for multiplying the page count with a predetermined price per page value.

23. The system of claim 17, wherein at least one of the content entities comprises user-provided content, and wherein the means for determining a price for the content object further comprises means for separately determining a price for user provided content and means for summing the separately determined price with the price determined for the remaining content entities of the content object.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the price for user-provided material is determined in a first manner if the content count exceeds a predefined content count maximum, and is determined in a second manner if the content count does not exceed the predefined maximum.